THE PATENT-EATER. — Dickens' Model Patent-Eater is graphic: "The Patent-Eater is of a peculiar species—he is a '*chance*' child—of foundling descent—sharp and thief-like—no teeth—(glass corrodes the Enamel)—Cambridge bred—quick at L. S. D.—a smatter of the law—particularly, bankruptcy—*meum* and *tuum* not in his vocabulary—a breed of them was lately imported from Bristol to Birmingham, where they thrive marvellously well in a *lane* a few miles out of town, *viâ* canal." The Patent-Eater has various plans laid for indulging in his favourite pastime since the repeal of the glass duties. We know one case in point which occurred a few years ago. A patentee in the glass trade, who had expended his hard earnings and a number of years' labour, in bringing out a very useful patent for ornamenting glass, by "*chance*" fell in with one of these gentlemen. A protection of his patent, and large promises of reward were held out to the patentee, if he would join the Patent-Eater, to establish a connection and set the process a-going, of which the Patent-Eater had no knowledge whatever. The young patentee, open, generous, and confiding, was very easily persuaded, and a written agreement was entered into. The process was set a-going, a demand for the article created, and a good trade in prospective, certain. Then the cloven foot began to show itself. The junior partner has his part of the game to play. *Jacques* (hopeful youth, half-way bred between Cambridge and Billingsgate) is sent to annoy the patentee in every possible way, and to assail him with such names as liar, &c. The patentee begins to smell a rat (in reality), and on referring to his agreement (written by *Jacques*), he finds that it is not worth one straw. The result may easily be guessed at. The patentee is turned adrift without a penny, and the noble Company enjoy a flourishing business with forty or fifty hands employed in it. This is what is technically termed "scotching a patentee," and is of frequent occurrence. You will ask, honest reader, is there no remedy? There is, virtually speaking, none whatever. It would be a fruitless waste of money. The Courts of Chancery, Exchequer, Old Palace, Bankruptcy, or any other court, are all one and the same thing to Rob Roy, "the Paten-tEater." Surely the patent laws might be amended so as to prevent and punish such base injustice.—*Cooper's "Glass Manual."*

THE FILE TRADE.—We have learned with very great pleasure that there are some palpable indications of an improvement in this trade at Sheffield.

REMOVAL OF VITIATED AIR.—The article under the head of Removal of Smoke and Ventilation of Sewers, which appeared in a late number of THE BUILDER, has suggested to me the idea of a cheap mode of carrying the vitiated air from dwellings by means of tubes leading from the rooms to the gas-lights in the street, the heat from which would cause the confined air to pass off with great velocity, by which a constant fresh supply would be insured to the inmates, and at a time, too, when they most need it. The same principle might, to a certain extent, be applied to the ventilation of sewers.—A. B.

BOOKBINDING.—Some idea may be formed of the extent of the London bookbinding trade from calculations which have been made, to the effect, that the weekly consumption of leaf gold, for enriching the exterior of books, amounts to about 3,600,000 square inches; and that 350 tons of paper shavings from book edges are sold annually by the London binders.

ASTOUNDING LIBERALITY TO PRESERVE ANCIENT WORKS OF ART.—The Earl of Guilford has ordered that the beautiful frescoes (!) which literally cover the walls of the Church of St. Cross (Winchester), shall next week receive an additional coat of whitewash! —*Hampshire Independent.*

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, CAMDEN-TOWN.—The first of several churches proposed to be built in St. Pancras parish was consecrated on Thursday in last week. It is in the Pointed style, from designs by Messrs. Ordish and Johnson, and accommodates 1,200 persons. The vicar and his active coadjutors in committee are responsible for a considerable amount, yet to be subscribed in order to defray the cost.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 7th inst., for the erection and completion of a large building at the Infantry barracks, Manchester; by 21st, for the erection of a new chapel to the hospital for consumption, Brompton; by 14th, for the erection of additional wards to the St. Saviour's Union, Southwark; by 11th, for the erection of a farm-house at Hermitage, Dorset; by 26th, for the erection of a farmery at Arsley, Bedfordshire; by 30th, for the erection of a church in the district of St. Paul's, Devonport; by 6th, for alterations and improvements to five houses in the parish of All Saints, Poplar; by a date not specified, for covering a large tavern with 1½ inch planed slates, rabitted together; by 12th, for the erection and completion of a stone warehouse at Bradford; by 5th, for the erection of farm-buildings, near Leicester; by 4th, for building 800 feet of brick sewer and 158 feet of glazed stoneware pipe sewers at Kensington; by 5th, for repairing sewers, &c., in the City; by 6th, for painting and repairing lanterns and fittings of gas-lamps at Islington, and painting lamp-posts, &c.; by 5th, for the supply of 670 yards of iron water-piping for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; and by 7th, for 50 fathoms yellow deal ends at Kensington Workhouse.

RICHBOROUGH CASTLE.—Mr. Rolfe has been excavating round the *castrum* at Richborough, and has laid open some square towers and two circular ones at the angles.

A CURIOUS ENCAUSTIC TILE, richly embossed, was found a few days since in excavating for a new sewer in Broad-street, City. It was presented by Mr. Haywood, the surveyor, to the Commissioners of Sewers. The design, we are told, represents an empress wearing a crown, the hands being uplifted as if in amazement.

THE PORCELAIN TOWER OF NANKIN.—The great Porcelain Tower at Nan-kin, in the province of Kiang-nan, is the most extraordinary building in China; it was built by the Emperor Yong-lo, and is called by the Chinese the "Temple of Gratitude." The tower is erected upon a pile of bricks, and is formed upon a most substantial timber framework; it stands about 200 feet high, and is of an octangular shape. It is surrounded by a very thick wall of the same form, over which a roof is thrown from the tower, covered with green porcelain tiles, which makes a very handsome promenade, the walls and roof being painted in arabesque. On the eastern side a marble staircase leads to the first floor, which is surrounded by a gallery or verandah, the roof of which is covered with green tiles, being supported by several pillars; on the top of the marble staircase there are three large doors leading into the hall or temple, which is on the first floor, and measures 40 feet across, which gives 15 feet for each of its sides. The floor is of marble, which has the appearance of projecting through the wall, as a cornice of marble 2 feet thick runs round the building on a level with the floor. The temple or hall is 100 feet in height, and it is only lighted by means of the three doors we have already described. The tower is composed of nine stories, each one above the hall being of equal height, but the diameter of each succeeding one decreases in equal proportion up to the top. The walls externally and internally are covered with porcelain, and a verandah surrounds each story covered with porcelain tiles, while small bells are pendent to every corner of them. The beautifully sloped roof is appropriately finished by means of a very thick spar, which is planted in the floor of the eighth story, and passing through the centre of, and extending above, the roof some 30 feet. This spar is surmounted with a large golden ball, and from its junction with the spar, a thick gilt wire is carried down like a screw in a conical form, which gives a novel and light appearance to the building; the second, and each succeeding story, has a window on each of its sides; the floors are laid upon thick cross beams, which are carved and painted in arabesque to form the ceilings of the rooms below them. The walls are covered with porcelain tiles, stamped with various figures and devices; small niches are filled with figures in *basso relievo*, and rich gilding adorns the whole of the interior; a winding and inconvenient staircase runs up to the ninth story.—*China and the Chinese.*

NEW GAS WORKS AT WALSALL, NEAR BIRMINGHAM.—The Corporation of this borough lately determined to erect new gas works, and having selected an eligible site requested that plans might be laid before the Town Council for their approval. Eleven designs were submitted, out of which they selected the design jointly made by Mr. H. C. Saunders, Wolverhampton and Stratford, and Mr. Ewinson. The buildings will cost upwards of 5,000*l.*

DISTRICT SURVEYOR'S FEES.—I have been called on to pay a fee of 10s. by the district surveyor of ——, for rebuilding the eight upper courses of a chimney stack and resetting the pots. Is this the spirit of the Building Act? The work has cost something less than 40s., and I do think it very unreasonable to pay a fee for such an operation. The chimney-stack is not in party; that is to say, belongs exclusively to one house. I have paid the fee under protest. W.

TENDERS

For the addition to Camberwell Workhouse under Mr. T. W. Plum, Architect:—

Willis	£3,365
Vote	3,362
Wells	3,346
Skinner and Haynes	3,015
W. H. Cooper	2,882
Rider	2,800
Burtenshaw	2,773
Curtis	2,644
Higgs	2,672
Taylor	2,579
Wilson (accepted)	2,492
Cooper and Davis	2,440

For Gas Fittings for the New City of London Workhouse, Bow-road:—

Stevenson and Co.	£988	2	11
Wichelo	923	0	0
Debaufer	794	0	0
Strode	745	0	0
Little, Stratford	730	0	0
Ledger (accepted)	672	11	0

For the erection of Wilts County Pauper Lunatic Asylum: For the General Work, exclusive of Iron:—

		Extra Wing
Plowman and Luck	£28,687	£616
Baker	27,586	645
Hancock	27,581	720
Hodges	25,996	630
Gover and Son	25,554	595
D. and C. Jones	25,250	598
Mitchell	25,100	604
Smith & Appleford	24,980	650
Higgs and Son	24,504	578
Young and White	24,424	481
Holland & Co.	23,949	532
Wilcox and Son	23,287	612
Burton and Co.	20,943	570
T. and W. Piper (accepted)	19,167	427

For the Iron Work there appeared:—

Erwood and Co.	£1,497	0	0
Hennet	1,490	0	0
Lee (Colebrooke Dale)	1,355	0	0
Lawrence	1,311	0	0
Dyer	1,435	0	0
Braston	1,465	0	0
Irish Engineering Company	1,460	0	0
Burt	1,456	0	0
Grisell	1,438	0	0
Blaina Iron Company	1,350	0	0
Coles	1,347	0	0
Whitchurch	1,300	0	0
Exall	1,297	0	0
Coley and Son	1,290	0	0
Stothert and Co.	1,237	0	0
Cotham and Co.	1,134	0	0
Box	1,124	0	0
Fox and Co.	992	0	0
Knight	990	0	0
Campbell and Christie (accepted)	859	1	6

For School-house and House of Industry, Norwood; Mr. Wm. Rogers, Architect. Tenders delivered 29th of May, 1849; quantities by Mr. Jarvis:—

Wm. Hill	£5,034
Whinam	4,987
Thos. Carter	4,950
Thos. Ward	4,895
Howard	4,903
Notley	4,845
Crook	4,498
Thos. Rudkin	4,475
Gammon	4,358
Roycroft	4,350
Haward and Nixon	4,337
Thompson and Son	4,275
H. W. Cooper	4,238
Cooper and Davis	4,200
Tombs	4,153
Walker and Soper	4,100
Wm. Higgs	4,073
Thos. Burton	3,951
J. Higgs and Son (accepted)	3,804

For five third-rate Houses to be erected at Dacre Park, Lee, Kent; Architects, Messrs. W. Smith and Son, Greenwich:—

Fahey	£2,265
Vale, Greenwich	2,188
Fuller	2,180
Salisbury	2,178
Rowland and Evans	1,988
Hill, Islington	1,980
Search, Deptford	1,975
Pilbeam	1,895
Royeroft	1,840
Hill, Woolwich	1,467

*** Under what heading some of these tenders should be placed, we leave our readers to determine.

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